

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 7, and 12-15 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent and having been amended herein. Claim 15 is newly-presented herein.

Claims 1, 6, 7, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,953,026 (Yoshino). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yoshino is directed an ink jet printing apparatus including a recovery system unit 13 having a plurality of cap units 14 arranged corresponding to ink jet head portions 2. The cap units can be raised and lowered in the vertical direction. When the carriage is located at the home position, each of the cap units 14 is connected to the ink jet head portions 2. The recovery system unit 13 also includes a pump unit that induces negative pressure for suction recovering treatment while the cap units are connected to the ink jet head portions.

The Office Action construes the cap units 14 in Yoshino as being the joint members and the surface of the head as being the connecting member. However, it cannot be said in Yoshino that the surface of the head is selectively connectable to each of the cap units, as is the connecting member recited in Claim 1. Rather, when the carriage is located at the home position in Yoshino, each of the cap units is connected to a corresponding one of the ink jet head portions. Further, because all of the cap units 14 cover the ink jet head portions 2 in Yoshino, it cannot be said that the pressure difference of the pump is applied to one of the discharge nozzles

by connecting the connecting member to one of the joint members which has been operated to cover either the supply port or discharge port of the one of the discharge nozzles, as is further recited in independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, Yoshino fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Claim 1 is patentable over the citation of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 6, 7, and 12-15 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 1. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Appln. No.: 10/806,156

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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